

RESOLUTION 2010-84

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY TO THE FLORIDA FOREVER ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION COUNCIL EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR RANKING OF THE NORTHEAST FLORIDA BLUEWAY IN THE TOP TIER FOR ACQUISITION**

**WHEREAS**, the Northeast Florida Blueway Florida Forever Project forms a Blueway connection from the St. Johns River in Duval County to Pellicer Creek in St. Johns/Flagler Counties that provides ecological, historical, archaeological and cultural connections between the present and the past; and

**WHEREAS**, the Northeast Florida Blueway was recommended by the Acquisition and Restoration Council in 2000 and 2001 as a Category A project and ratified by the Governor and Cabinet; and

**WHEREAS**, the Northeast Florida Blueway was ranked as a top tier project in 2007 by the Acquisition and Restoration Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the Northeast Florida Blueway encompasses much of the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve, established to be protected for long-term research, water-quality monitoring, education and coastal stewardship and one of only 27 National Estuarine Research Reserves in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, much of the Northeast Florida Blueway is within the Northern Coastal Basin Program area, initiated in 1995 with the basic strategy of restoring, protecting, and managing the surface water resources in response to general water quality concerns and the closure of historic shellfish harvesting areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the natural and historical value of the area is reflected in the establishment of numerous federal and state managed areas adjacent to the Northeast Florida Blueway, including Guana River Wildlife Management Area, Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve, Guana River Marsh Aquatic Preserve, Deep Creek State Forest, Stokes Landing Conservation Area, Fort Mose, Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, Anastasia State Park, Moses Creek Conservation Area, Fort Matanzas National Monument, Matanzas State Forest, Faver-Dykes State Park, Pellicer Creek Corridor Conservation Area and Pellicer Creek Aquatic Preserve; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Johns County has acquired properties along the Blueway, including but not limited to the Moultrie Creek Intracoastal Waterway (Vaill Point) tract and Southeast Intracoastal Waterway Park, both in partnership with the Florida Communities Trust; and

**WHEREAS**, the Northeast Florida Blueway complements the Federal, State and Local initiatives to preserve and protect the natural resources and water quality along the Intracoastal Waterway as previously established by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) through the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve; the St. Johns River Water management District (SJRWMD) through the Northern Coastal Basin Program; and the Northern Coastal Basin Monitoring and Research Work Group and the Guana Tolomato Matanzas Shellfish and Water Quality Task Force; and

**WHEREAS**, acquisition of lands in the Northeast Florida Blueway Florida Forever Project is an essential component in the protection of the ecological integrity and the estuarine environment of St. Johns County and the quality of life of its visitors and citizens, now and for future generations.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida as follows:

**Section 1.** The above recitals are incorporated by reference into the body of this Resolution and such Recitals are adopted as findings of fact.

**Section 2.** That the Board urges the Florida Forever Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) to rank the Northeast Florida Blueway in the top tier on the Florida Forever Board of Trustees Acquisition List.

**Section 3.** That the Board Chair is authorized to send letters to the legislative delegation relaying this resolution and advocating for keeping the Blueway project ranked in the top tier of projects.

**Section 4.** To the extent that there are typographical and/or administrative errors and/or omissions that do not change the tone, tenor, or context of this Resolution, then this Resolution may be revised without subsequent approval of the Board of County Commissioners.

**Section 5.** That this Resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2010.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By:   
Ron Sanchez, Chair

REVISION DATE 4/7/2010

ATTEST: Cheryl Strickland, Clerk

By: Robin L. Ploech

Deputy Clerk